



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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SEPTEMBER 2015 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

During the month of September, Lake Superior rose slightly due to higher than average net basin supplies. The mean September water level was 602.66 ft, which is 0.04 ft higher than the August 2015 mean water level. The monthly mean water level has fallen below its level of a year ago for the first time since April and the monthly mean lake level is 0.03 ft below where it was in September of 2014. The September 2015 level was 6 inches higher than the long term average September level and 19 inches above chart datum. The Lake Superior basin received 92% of average precipitation in September, but near average precipitation over the last 12 months. Lake Superior is projected to be lower than 2014 levels throughout the 6-month forecast period, but 4 to 6 inches above long term average levels. Lake Superior levels are forecast to be 4 to 17 inches above chart datum through March.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its seasonal decline and fell slightly from 579.79 ft in August to 579.72 ft in September. September levels were 6 inches higher than the long term average September levels, marking the 13th consecutive month with above average water levels after a 15 year stretch of continuously below average conditions. The mean monthly water level was 27 inches above chart datum. Lake Michigan-Huron saw a dry September with 25% lower basin precipitation compared to an average September and has seen about 90% of average precipitation over the last 12 months. Mean monthly water levels will continue to fall towards the levels seen last year and are expected to fall below last year's levels in December. September levels were 7 inches higher than 2014 levels, and over the next six months, Lake Michigan-Huron is projected to be 3 inches above to 2 inches below last year's levels and 7 to 8 inches above long term average levels. Levels are predicted to be 17 to 24 inches above chart datum through March.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair continued its seasonal decline during September. Lake St. Clair's water level fell from a monthly mean of 575.72 ft in August to 575.52 ft in September. The lake's mean level in September was 6 inches above its level of a year ago and 13 inches above long term average levels. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to return to last year's levels by December of this year. Levels are forecast to be 9 to 14 inches above long term average levels through March.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie also continued its seasonal decline in September, falling from a monthly mean lake level of 572.90 ft in August to 572.51 ft in September. The Lake Erie basin saw a drier than average month in September, receiving 79% of its average September precipitation. The September level was 13 inches above its long term average September level, and 7 inches higher than September 2014. Lake Erie is projected to be 3 to 13 inches above its level of a year ago through March. The lake is expected to be 10 to 13 inches above its LTA through March.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's mean September level of 245.77 ft was 8 inches lower than August's level. The lake's September level was 5 inches higher than its level of a year ago and 7 inches above its long term average September level. The Lake Ontario basin received above average September precipitation, but remains dry at only 86% of average precipitation over the past 12 months. Lake Ontario is projected to be between 1 and 11 inches above last year's levels and 2 inches below to 4 inches above long term average levels through March.